

## Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

DDMHS, Weeks Building, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-1601 (802-241-2638)

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project  
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani and Monica Simon

DATE: February 16, 2000

RE: Change in Level of Functioning

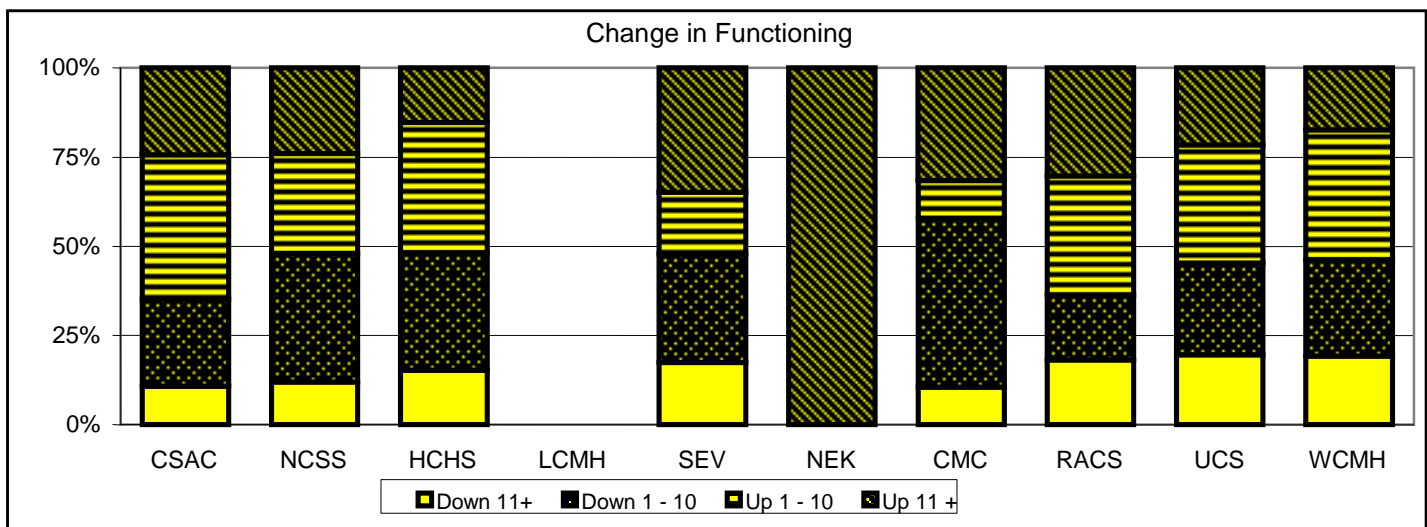
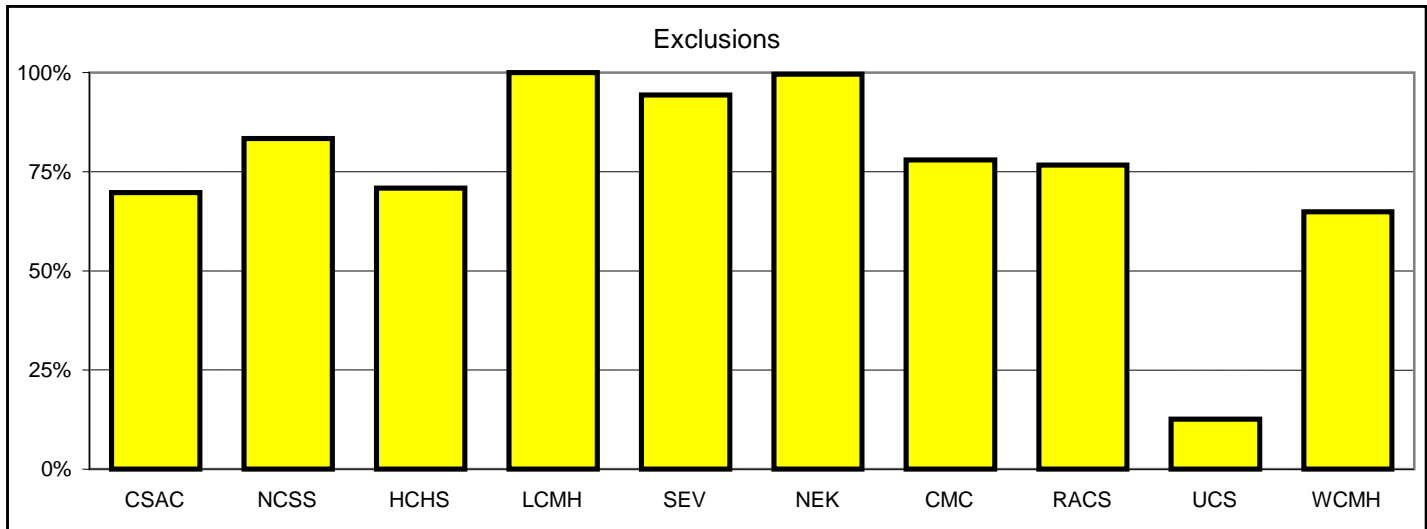
Change in level of functioning during the year after admission to treatment is one of the clinically oriented indicators we have prepared for the Sixteen State Performance Indicator Project. In Vermont, we are measuring change in level of functioning using the GAF (Global Assessment of Functioning) scores that are collected at admission and annually thereafter by DDMHS designated community providers. GAF scores range from 1 to 100, with a score of 100 indicating superior functioning and a score of 1 indicating persistent danger or persistent inability to maintain personal hygiene. (See *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders – Fourth Edition* for more detail). The attached tables and graphs present the results of our analysis of change in level of functioning during the year after admission for all people admitted during FY1999 to Child and Adolescent, Adult Outpatient, and Community Rehabilitation and Treatment Programs and were still in treatment one year later.

As you will see, a substantial proportion of these clients did not have a one-year follow-up assessment reported. This occurred for about one-fourth of admissions to each of these programs statewide. Most of the lack of follow-up assessments occurred at two providers. An even larger proportion of people (about 50% in each program) had identical GAF scores at admission and follow-up.) Following a discussion with participants in the Sixteen State Performance indicator project, identical scores on the two assessments are being interpreted as indicating a lack of a follow-up assessment. Both of these groups were excluded from the analysis that follows.

Among the consumers who had two non-identical GAF scores, increases in level of functioning were observed for 52% of Children's Services clients, 58% of Adult Outpatient clients, and 40% of CRT clients. Substantial increases (more than 10 points on the 100 point GAF scale) were observed for 21% of Children's Services clients, 29% of Adult Outpatient clients, and 22% of CRT clients. Because of the small number of clients for whom there were two assessments, clinic level detail is not discussed here but is provided in the tables that follow.

We will be very interested in your comments about these data. Are we correct in assuming that identical scores for consecutive years indicate that the results of a single assessment are being reported for multiple years? What steps would you suggest to improve data quality and completeness in this area? How much change in level of functioning would you interpret to be a meaningful change? Please send your comments and suggestions to [jpandiani@ddmhs.state.vt.us](mailto:jpandiani@ddmhs.state.vt.us) or call 802-241-2638.

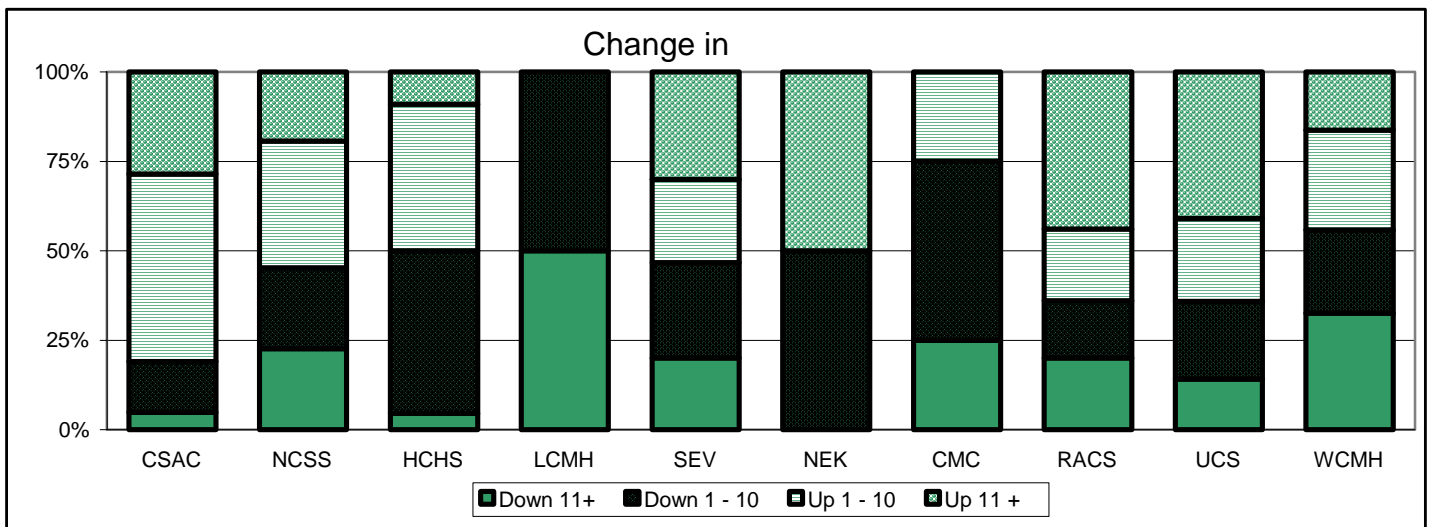
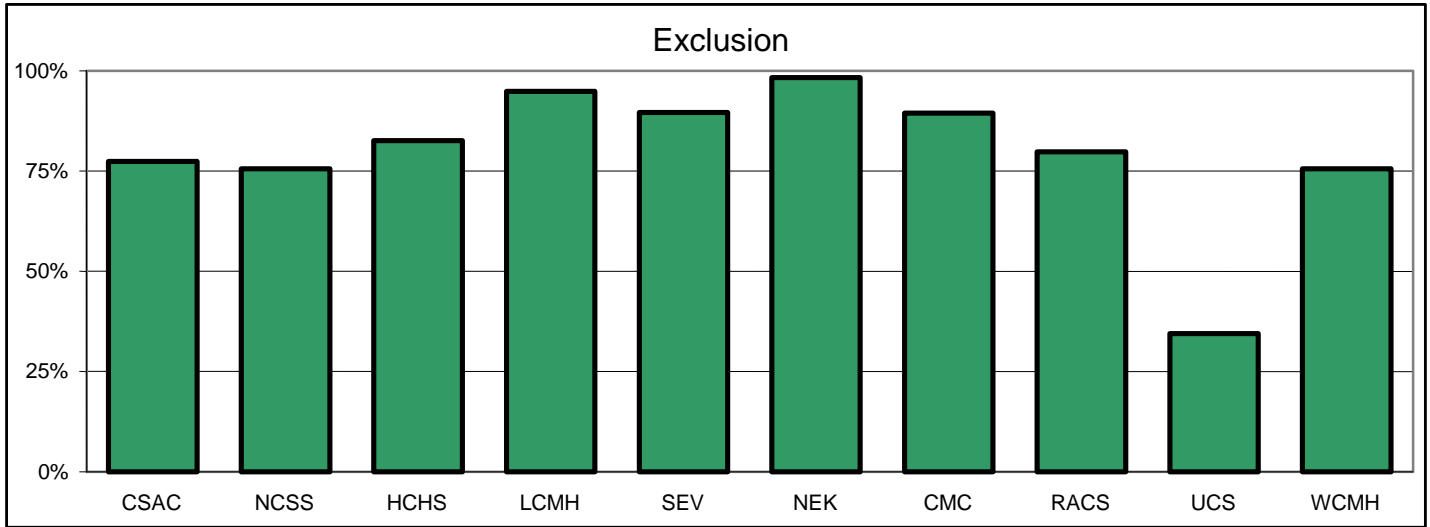
**Child and Adolescent Services Programs  
Change in Global Assessment Functioning  
During the First Year After FY 1999 Admission**



Clinic	Total Number Admitted	Exclusions			Change in Functioning				
		Only One Evaluation	Identical Scores	Total	Number Changed	Decreased 11+	Decreased 1 - 10	Increased 1 - 10	Increased 11+
Addison - CSAC	122	9%	61%	70%	37	11%	24%	41%	24%
Nothwest - NCSS	150	13%	71%	83%	25	12%	36%	28%	24%
Chittenden - HCHS	291	16%	55%	71%	85	15%	33%	36%	15%
Lamoille - LCMH	25	12%	88%	100%	0	--	--	--	--
Southeast - SEV	405	87%	7%	94%	23	17%	30%	17%	35%
Northeast - NEK	203	3%	97%	100%	1	0%	0%	0%	100%
Orange - CMC	86	0%	78%	78%	19	11%	47%	11%	32%
Rutland - RACS	141	4%	72%	77%	33	18%	18%	33%	30%
Bennington - UCS	111	2%	11%	13%	97	20%	26%	33%	22%
Washington - WCMH	148	1%	64%	65%	52	19%	27%	37%	17%
Overall	1703	26%	51%	77%	391	16%	27%	31%	21%

Based on analysis of Monthly Service Reports submitted to DDMHS by designated Community Service Providers

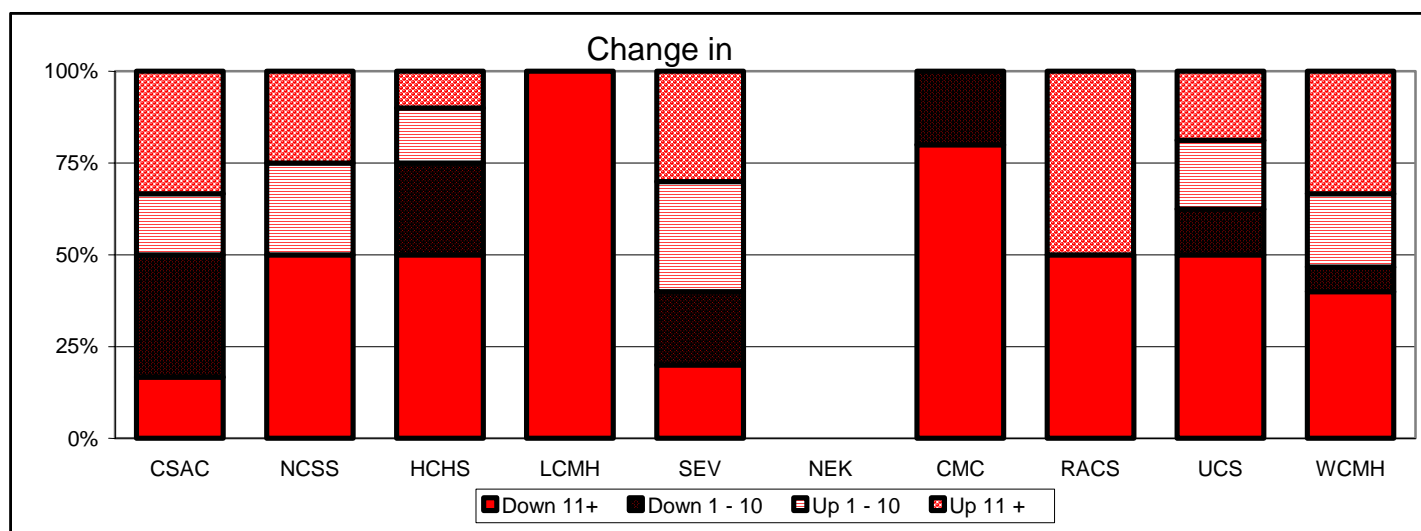
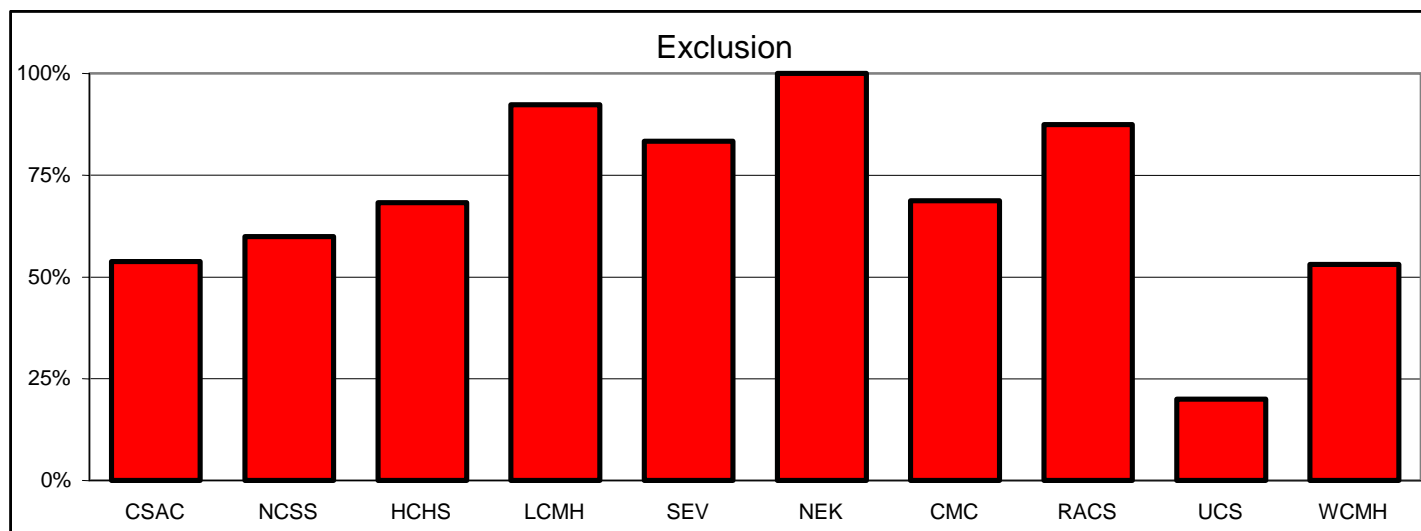
**Adult Mental Health Outpatient Programs  
Change in Global Assessment Functioning  
During the First Year After FY 1999 Admission**



Clinic	Total Number Admitted	Exclusion			Change in				
		Only Evaluation	Identical Score	Total	Number Change	Decrease		Increase	
						11 +	1 -	1 -	11 +
Addiso -	93	2%	75%	77%	21	5%	14%	52%	29%
Nothwes -	127	5%	71%	76%	31	23%	23%	35%	19%
Chittende -	126	36%	47%	83%	22	5%	45%	41%	9%
Lamoill -	39	8%	87%	95%	2	50%	50%	0%	0%
Souheas - SEV	290	81%	9%	90%	30	20%	27%	23%	30%
Northeas -	122	0%	98%	98%	2	0%	50%	0%	50%
Orang -	38	0%	89%	89%	4	25%	50%	25%	0%
Rutlan -	124	6%	74%	80%	25	20%	16%	20%	44%
Benningto -	119	7%	28%	34%	78	14%	22%	23%	41%
Washingto -	176	2%	74%	76%	43	33%	23%	28%	16%
<b>Overall</b>	<b>1254</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>29%</b>

Based on analysis of Monthly Service Reports submitted to DDMHS by designated Community Service Providers

**Community Rehabilitation and Treatment Programs  
Change in Global Assessment Functioning  
During the First Year After FY 1999 Admission**



Clinic	Total Numbe Admitte	Exclusion			Change in				
		Only Evaluatio	Identica Score	Total	Numbe Change	Decrease		Increase	
						11 +	1 - 10	1 - 10	11 +
Addiso -	13	8%	46%	54%	6	17%	33%	17%	33%
Nothwes -	10	0%	60%	60%	4	50%	0%	25%	25%
Chittende -	63	25%	43%	68%	20	50%	25%	15%	10%
Lamoill -	13	15%	77%	92%	1	100%	0%	0%	0%
Souheas - SEV	60	77%	7%	83%	10	20%	20%	30%	30%
Northeas -	32	0%	100%	100%	0	--	--	--	--
Orang -	16	0%	69%	69%	5	80%	20%	0%	0%
Rutlan -	16	0%	88%	88%	2	50%	0%	0%	50%
Benningto -	20	10%	10%	20%	16	50%	13%	19%	19%
Washingto -	32	3%	50%	53%	15	40%	7%	20%	33%
<b>Overall</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>22%</b>

Based on analysis of Monthly Service Reports submitted to DDMHS by designated Community Service Providers